States' Share on Water Management

753. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether share of States spending on water management is declining sharply, as reported in the Economic Times dated the 5th August, 2002;

(b) if so, whether there has been considerable less rainfall during the current year;

(c) if so, whether this has further aggravated the shortage of water in many States;

(d) whether the National Water Policy adopted by Government has failed to provide right climate for private sector participation in this sector; and

(e) if so, the steps Government propose to take to implement the other recommendations of the National Water Policy to meet the water shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) There has been a consistent increase in the plan-wise outlays (in absolute terms) for water management that encompasses irrigation, command area development and flood control activities. However, percentage share of public investment including States' share in water management in relation to the total investment has consistently declined from 23% in the first plan to about 6% in the Ninth Plan as indicated in the statement (*See* below).

(b) The year 2002 was the first all-India drought year after a continuous spell of 14 good monsoons that followed the previous all-India drought year of 1987. The monsoon rainfall (June-September) for the

country as a whole was 19% below normal. 29% area of the country experienced drought conditions with 19% area under moderate category and 10% under severe category.

(c) The average per capita water availability at present in the country is 1820 cubic metre per year as against the international criteria of annual water availability of less than 1000 cubic metre per capita which is considered as scarcity condition. However, due to the spatial variability of rain in the country and also because of variation in population density, per capita average annual availability of water in different basins presently varies from 13,636 cubic metre in Brahmaputra-Barak basin to 298 cubic metre in Sabarmati basin. The temporal variability in the rainfall also creates temporary scarcity of water in certain years. The less rainfall during the current year has resulted in water shortage in certain parts of the country where rainfall was for below normal.

(d) The National Water Policy, 2002 provides that private sector participation should be encouraged in planning, development and management of water resources projects for diverse uses wherever feasible.

(e) The National Water Policy, 2002 provides that each State shall formulate its own State Water Policy backed with an operational Action Plan in a time bound manner, say in two years to achieve the desired objectives of the Policy including meeting the water shortage. After adoption of the National Water Policy in April, 2002, several steps have been taken for its implementation. These include inter-ministerial meetings with Central and State Governments, interaction with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and institutions concerned with the water sector. A series of seven regional Workshops was also organised by the Ministry of Water Resources at various places in the country during August to October, 2002 for continued deliberations with the NGOs, water experts and professionals. The Action Plan will be placed in the Conference of Water Resources and Irrigation Ministers of States and Union Territory Administrations for its consideration and thereafter sent to all State Governments and concerned Central Ministries for implementation.

Statement

Plan-wise Financial Expenditure (State + Central) on irrigation and Command Area Development in India

(Rs. in crore)

Period	Major & medium Irrigation	Minor Irrigation	Comand Area Develop-ment	Flood Control	TOTAL (Irrigation+ CAD+ Flood Sector)	Total Plan Expenditure in all Sectors	% of expenditure on irrigation to All sector Total Expendt.
I Plan (1951-56)	376.24	65.62		13.21	455.07	1960	23.2
II Plan (1956-61)	380.00	142.23		48.06	570.29	4672	12.2
III Plan (1961-66)	576.00	327.73		82.09	985.82	8577	11.5
A. Plans (1966-69)	429.81	326.19		41.96	797.96	6625	12.0
IV Plan (1969-74)	1242.30	512.28		162.04	1916.62	15779	12.1
V Plan (1974-78)	2516.18	630.83	147.60	298.60	3593.21	28653	12.5
A. Plans (1978-80)	2078.58	501.50	215.30	329.96	3125.34	22950	13.6
VI Plan 1980-85)	7368.83	1979.26	743.10	786.85	10878.04	109292	10.0
VII Plan (1985-90)	11107.29	3118.35	1447.50	941.58	16614.72	218730	7.6
A. Plans (1990-92)	5459.15	1680.48	619.40	460.64	8219.67	123120	6.7
VIII Plan (1992-97)	21669.15	6282.34	1937.90	1691.68	31581.07	434100	7.3
IX Plan (1997-2002) (Outlay)	42968.49	9369.84	3012.80	2938.49	58289.62	875000	6.7